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Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 2392—Small Business Innovation Research Program Reauthorization Act

H.R. 717—National Parks Air Tour Management Act

**H.Con.Res. 187—Sense of Congress on EU Ban of U.S. Hushkitted and
Reengined Aircraft**

S. 1072—Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act

H.Res. 168—Recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Foreign Service

**H.Con.Res. 140—Sense of Congress that Haiti Should Conduct Free, Fair,
Transparent, and Peaceful Elections**

H.R. 1934—Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act

S. 293—Conveying Land in New Mexico to San Juan College

S. 323—Black Canyon and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Act

S. 944—Allowing Mineral Leasing of Certain Indian Lands in Oklahoma

H.R. 2841—Granting the Virgin Islands Greater Fiscal Autonomy

H.R. 202—Preserving Affordable Housing for Senior Citizens Into the 21st Century

H.R. 2942—Extending Chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code for Six Months



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following 13 bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 2392—Small Business Innovation Research Program Reauthorization Act reauthorizes the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR), which assists small businesses in obtaining federal research and development funding. Specifically, the bill amends the Small Business Act to (1) extend the

SBIR until September 30, 2007; (2) require an annual SBIR report to be submitted to the Science Committee; (3) require the administrator of the Small Business Administration to revise certain SBIR policy directives concerning funding awards; and (4) direct each federal agency that maintains a Small Business Technology Transfer Program to include in its annual performance plan a section on its SBIR. CBO estimates that enactment will cost \$35 million over the FY 2001-2004 period. However, if appropriations are increased to keep pace with anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that extending the SBIR program will cost \$42 million over the same period. The Small Business Committee reported the bill by voice vote on September 23, 1999.

H.R. 717—National Parks Air Tour Management Act establishes a process for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Park Service (NPS) to coordinate developing and implementing regulations to govern aircraft overflights affecting national parks. Specifically, the measure requires that commercial air tour operators conduct their operations over a national park, or over tribal lands within or adjacent to a national park, according to an approved air tour management plan (ATMP). The FAA must grant interim operating authority (IOA) to an existing air tour operator who applies for operating authority. The measure also establishes an advisory group to provide continuing advice and counsel to the agencies on this issue within one year of enactment. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 717 will have no significant impact in federal spending over the FY 1999-2004 period. The bill was introduced by Mr. Duncan *et al.* and was reported by the Transportation Committee by voice vote on March 11, 1999.

H.Con.Res. 187 expresses the sense of Congress against a recently-adopted European Union (EU) regulation that bans U.S. aircraft from landing in or taking off from European airports if the planes have engines that have been modified with a hushkit or re-engined to reduce air noise. Specifically, the resolution (1) encourages the Transportation Secretary to file a petition with the International Aviation Organization if the resolution is not rescinded; and (2) urges the secretaries of Commerce and Transportation to “use all reasonable means” to have the regulation rescinded. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Shuster *et al.* and was reported by the Transportation Committee by voice vote on September 23, 1999.

S. 1072—Centennial of Flight Commemoration Corrections Act makes technical corrections to the 1998 Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act (*P.L. 105-389*). The law established a seven-member commission to plan and develop programs to commemorate the 100th anniversary of powered flight. The bill removes all executive functions from the commission and therefore makes the commission an advisory panel governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Currently, the commission has been engaging in executive decision-making even though it was not appointed by the president, a violation of Article II of the Constitution. As an advisory council, the commission will provide recommendations to the president and related agencies pertaining to the anniversary celebrations. The bill allows commission members to attend international events as advisors to U.S. representatives but does not allow them to represent the U.S. at these events. Furthermore, the bill prohibits commission members from entering into contractual agreements on behalf of the U.S. (only the NASA Administrator or the FAA Administrator may enter into such agreements). The bill was referred to the House on September 8 and was not considered by a House committee.

H.Res. 168—Recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Foreign Service recognizes the U.S. Foreign Service and its achievements and contributions of the past 75 years. The measure also honors those members of the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty and commends the generations of men or women who have served or are presently serving for their vital service to the nation. H.Res. 168 calls on the House Clerk to submit a copy of the resolution to the president. The bill was introduced by Mr. Gilman *et al.* and was reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote on May 25, 1999.

H.Con.Res. 140—Sense of Congress that Haiti Should Conduct Free, Fair, Transparent, and Peaceful Elections expresses the sense of Congress to (1) acknowledge that the government of Haiti has made progress toward democratization; (2) urge the government of Haiti to engage in a dialogue with all elements of Haitian society to further a self-sustainable democracy; (3) encourage the government and all political parties in Haiti to proceed toward conducting free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections as scheduled; and (4) urge the Clinton Administration and the international community to continue to play a positive role in Haiti's economic and political developments.

The resolution also (1) commends the United Nations and other countries and international organizations for their support of health, education, nutrition, and environmental programs in Haiti; (2) commends the efforts of the U.S. military on the ground in Haiti for providing civil support and medical assistance; (3) encourages the Clinton Administration and the international community to provide substantial assistance for the coming elections; (4) encourages the Haitian government to adopt adequate security measures in preparation for the proposed elections; (5) urges all elements of Haitian civil society to promote a climate of security; and (6) urges the U.S. and other members of the international community to continue support towards a lasting and committed transition to democracy in Haiti. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hastings *et al.* and was reported by the International Relations Committee by voice vote on July 1.

H.R. 1934—Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act directs the Commerce Secretary to establish the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. This program will provide grants to groups that assist stranded marine mammals for recovering and treating animals, collecting research data, and paying for operating costs for related facilities. The bill authorizes \$5 million annually for the grant program until FY 2003. The bill was introduced by Mr. Saxton *et al.* and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on June 30.

S. 293—Conveying Land in New Mexico to San Juan College directs the secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to convey a 10-acre parcel of land—the Old Jicarilla Administrative Site—including the facilities currently on it, to San Juan College. The property is located in the Carson National Forest near the town of Governador, New Mexico. The bill was referred to the House on April 12 and was not considered by a House committee.

S. 323—Black Canyon and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Act redesignates the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park. It also authorizes the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire up to 2,500 acres surrounding the existing park by donation, purchase, transfer, or exchange and expands the Black Canyon of the Gunnison wilderness area to include an additional 4,419 acres. The bill establishes the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) and directs the BLM to administer its 57,725 acres. It also designates 17,700 acres as a new wilderness area within the conservation area, the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. The bill was referred to the House on July 1 and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on July 21.

S. 944—Allowing Mineral Leasing of Certain Indian Lands in Oklahoma amends current law (*P.L. 105-188*) to allow mineral leasing of certain Indian lands in Oklahoma. Under the bill, the Interior Secretary may approve leases of allotted lands on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation pursuant to the 1909 Mineral Leasing Act if a simple majority vote of landowners approves the lease. The Interior Secretary also may approve lands if they are held in trust as part of the former Oklahoma Indian reservations of the Comanche Indian Tribe, the Kiowa Indian Tribe, the Apache Tribe, the Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, the Wichita and Affiliated tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, and Tawakonie), the Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma, or the Caddo Indian Tribe. The bill was referred to the House on September 17 and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on September 22.

H.R. 2841—Granting the Virgin Islands Greater Fiscal Autonomy amends the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to allow its government to use its general obligation authority for any public purpose authorized by the legislature of the Virgin Islands. General obligation authority is used by other U.S. jurisdictions to repay debts or obligations in good faith, as opposed to a loan where a certain source of collateral or revenues for payment is listed. It also authorizes a financial accountability and performance standards agreement to be concluded by the Virgin Islands Government and the Interior Department. Under the bill, the obligation authority will terminate if the financial accountability and performance standards agreement is not concluded by December 31, 1999. The bill was introduced by Ms. Christensen and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on September 22.

H.R. 202—Preserving Affordable Housing for Senior Citizens Into the 21st Century Act preserves the existing affordable housing program for senior citizens by converting the financing of pre-1990 senior housing developments to a modern program of capital grants (*i.e.*, converting outstanding loan balances into capital advances). Prior to 1990, senior housing developments were financed through direct loans and project-based rental assistance contracts. In the year 2001, the rental assistance contracts on 215,000 housing units will begin to expire.

The measure authorizes the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide enhanced vouchers to elderly and disabled residents who receive rental assistance. An enhanced voucher is a Section 8 voucher that pays a higher subsidy than a regular voucher, and may be given to residents of assisted housing when owners opt-out or remove their projects from the subsidy program. In FY 2000, federal rental assistance contracts for more than 2.3 million families will expire and a significant number of owners are choosing not to renew federal contracts. The bill also authorizes HUD to renew existing Section 8 contracts.

Finally, the bill authorizes (1) \$700 million annually for existing supportive housing programs for the elderly (Section 202) for FYs 2001-2004; (2) \$225 million annually for existing supportive housing programs for the disabled (Section 811) for FYs 2001-2004; and (3) \$50 million for grants for service coordinators for certain federally assisted multifamily housing projects for FY 2000, and authorizes such sums as necessary for FY 2001 and FY 2002. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. The bill was introduced by Mr. Lazio *et al.* and was reported by the Banking & Financial Services Committee by voice vote on September 24, 1999.

H.R. 2942—Extending Chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code grants a six-month extension (starting on October 1, 1999) to Chapter 12 of the bankruptcy code, which is set to expire on September 31, 1999. Congress extended the law last fall in the 1998 omnibus appropriations bill (*P.L. 105-277*). Chapter 12, first enacted in 1986 in response to the farm financial crisis of the early- and mid-1980s (the most severe since the 1920s), is a specialized form of bankruptcy relief available to family farmers. It permits eligible family farmers to reorganize their debts instead of liquidate their assets. The bill was introduced by Mr. Smith (MI) and was not considered by a House committee.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #27, September 24, 1999.

